

CLAIMS:

1. A communication system (1) for example a voice and/or data system, having at least one user terminal (T1 ... Tn), a facility providing processing device (2) coupled thereto for connecting the user terminals (T1 ... Tn), and an intervening network (3) for interconnection of the processing device (2) and a remote user terminal (RT1 ... RTm),
5 characterised in that the intervening network (3) is arranged for conveying at least facility related signals (S), and that the processing device (2) is equipped for allowing its facilities to be used by the remote user terminal (RT1 ... RTm).

2. The communication system (1) according to claim 1, characterised in that the
10 communication system (1) is arranged for processing facility related signals (S) during an active connection between the remote user terminal (RT1 ... RTm) and another user terminal (T1 ... Tn; RT1 ... RTm).

3. The communication system (1) according to claims 1 or 2, characterised in
15 that the intervening network (3) supports a signalling protocol for conveying the facility related signals (S).

4. The communication system (1) according to one of the claims 1-3,
characterised in that the facility providing processing device (2) is arranged to have the
20 facilities implemented by software and/or hardware.

5. The communication system (1) according to one of the claims 1-4,
characterised in that at least part of the facility related signals (S) is arranged to select
facilities requested by the remote user terminal (RT1 ... RTm).

6. The communication system (1) according to one of the claims 1-5,
characterised in that either voice-like signals, e.g. DTMF control signals, FSK signals and the
like, and/or end-to-end signals, e.g. user-to-user signalling are used for enabling the facilities
of the processing device (2) to the remote user terminal (RT1 ... RTm).

7. The communication system (1) according to one of the claims 1-6, characterised in that the facilities may comprise one or more of the following features: generic extension features, e.g. break-in feature, automatic ring back feature, follow me feature, shuttle feature, call forwarding; digital extension features, such as ISDN and data communication features; cordless extension features; group features; manager/secretary features; operator features; day and night service features; trunk features, e.g. generic trunk features, ISDN trunk features, and routing features; paging features; telephony and maintenance features; and any features upgradable and/or downloadable during operation of the communication system (1).

8. The communication system (1) according to one of the claims 1-7, characterised in that the processing device (2) and/or the user terminal (T1 ... Tn) concerned comprises a voice signal transmitter and/or receiver, for example a DTMF transmitter/receiver (4).

9. Telephone system comprising a communication system (1) according to one of the claims 1-8, the communication system (1) having at least one user terminal (T1 ... Tn), a facility providing processing device (2) coupled thereto for connecting the user terminals (T1 ... Tn), and an intervening network (3) for interconnection of the processing device (2) and a remote user terminal (RT1 ... RTm), characterised in that the intervening network (3) is arranged for conveying at least facility related signals (S), and that the processing device (2) is equipped for allowing its facilities to be used by the remote user terminal (RT1 ... RTm).